

## Do you have a child in your district with a cochlear implant or hearing aid?



## **DID YOU KNOW ...?**



Cochlear implants do not restore normal hearing.

- \* Cochlear implants and hearing aids do not yet provide a complete auditory signal.
- \* A child with a cochlear implant or hearing aids does not hear as well as a hearing person. (Moog and Stein 2008) (Svirsky et al. 2000)
- \* Hearing through a cochlear implant or hearing aids is different from normal hearing.
- \* Intensive instruction in auditory skills helps children learn to listen and interpret what they hear through cochlear implants and hearing aids.
- One benefit of cochlear implants and hearing aids is to stimulate auditory neural connections in the brain. These connections are the foundation for learning spoken language, reading and academics. (Gordon, Papsin and Harrison 2003)
- A child with a cochlear implant or hearing aids usually needs specific, intensive education in order to learn speech, language, reading and other academic subjects.
  - \* Hearing loss affects the ways children learn and requires strategies specifically geared to their needs and learning styles, which often differ from those of hearing peers.
- Optimal cochlear implant services with intensive educational intervention, though expensive, are often required for only a relatively short time. After that, many children can be placed in mainstream programs with skills comparable to their hearing age-mates. (Moog 2002)
- A child will benefit most from a cochlear implant and/or hearing aids in a quiet, controlled environment and with an FM system.
- MODESE has funding available for school districts to start a co-op for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Cochlear implant consultation services are also available.
  - \* Find information at http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/
- Certification and teaching skills in deaf education are different from certification and teaching skills in special education. In Missouri, Fontbonne University, Missouri State University and Washington University School of Medicine have accredited deaf education programs.
  - \* Learn more about cochlear implants and how they work:
    - www.asha.org/public/hearing/treatment/cochlear implant.htm
    - www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/coch.asp

